

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-15 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 16 and 17 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in those claims. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 1 and 3-15 are allowed.

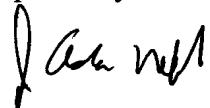
The Office Action rejects claims 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,487,566 to Sundaresan. Claims 16 and 17 are canceled, thereby obviating the rejection.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration; and (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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